THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

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The Sewer Question.

NOT A VERY PROMISING OUT-LOOK FOR TAX PAYERS.—ITEMS OF EXPENSE OF A CONTINGENT CHARACTER.

The work of introducing a system of sewerage into Orange seems to have a demoralizing effect on the Common Council of that City. Charges of demagogism, perjury, bribery and other invectives are indulged in as liberally as in a Waterford or Wexford political harangue. The "lie" is frequently given and taken. The deplorable state of affairs prompts the *Orange Chronicle* to speak editorially as follows:

"There was a time when the Common Council of Orange was a dignified body. Their debates were spirited, sometimes heated, but never personal. Alas! what a change has come o'er the scene! Now, scarcely a meeting is held that does not witness scenes that would be mere appropriate to the slums than to a meeting of men who hold in their hands the interests of the entire city. Billingsgate in its most extravagant form is the common mode of conducting debates, and the presiding officer calmly sits and looks on, apparently feeling no responsibility in the matter. This sort of thing has gone too far. It is time to reform. The remedy is simple and it should be applied."

The following sample of a Common Council meeting is also taken from the same paper:

The Common Council held a short meeting on Monday evening. All the members but Mr. Doty were present. The session was marked by another exhibition of personal abuse between the members. The transfer of $5,824.39 from the sewerage account to the contingent account was authorized by the adoption of a resolution.

The Finance Committee then presented a number of bills presented against the sewerage account, which it recommended be ordered paid under suspension of the rules. It was to act on these bills that the meeting was really held. Among the bills were those of the members of the Sewerage Committee for services, as follows: Mr. Brennan, $148; Mr. Harrington, $150; Mr. Seymour, $149; Mr. Doty, $150; Mr. Haley, $148. Another bill was that of City Clerk Stetson for $800 for services in connection with the sewerage work.

Mr. Parkinson protested against the bills. He said that the Finance Committee was largely made up of members of the Sewerage Committee, and he doubted the legality of members approving their own bills. Mr. Lethbridge, chairman of the Finance Committee, replied that the bills had been properly approved and it made no difference that the same men were members of both committees.

At Mr Parkinson's request the bill of Mr. Haley was read. It showed that the charge was for attendance at meetings of the Sewerage Committee and for supervision of the work. The bill of City Clerk Stetson was also read. Mr. Parkinson asked Mr. Stetson how many meetings the bill was for and Mr. Stetson replied that he could not tell.

Mr. Parkinson then characterized Mr. Stetson's bill as outrageous and exorbitant. It was not necessary to have [a] legal man in that position. Hundreds of men would be glad to do the work for less money. He did not see he said, why it was necessary to pay him for legal services when the city had a $1,500 Counsel and an associate counsel besides. As for the bills of the Sewerage Committee, they averaged four and a half days a week for each man. He could not see why men should be paid $1 every time they passed the sewers on their way to work, especially when the city was paying $19,000 for inspectors. "I shall object to the bill of the Clerk and the others," said Mr. Parkinson in closing, "because I don't believe that they are honest."

Mr. Harrington said that he was not afraid to defend his course, and he thought that every other member of the committee ought to have something to say. He asserted that the bills of the committee were honest and fair. He explained how day after day the members had been called upon to straighten out matters which inspectors could not. It was little pay for the service the committee had rendered in the past two years. He said that when Mr. Parkinson's organ was alive it had declared that the bills of each member would be $1,100, and he wanted to know how Mr. Parkinson would kick if such were the case. "Mr. Parkinson reminds me of the ass," said Mr. Harrington, "who put on the lion's skin in order to frighten the rest of the animals, but whose long ears and bray gave him away in spite of his disguise."

Mr. Parkinson singled out a remark made by Mr. Harrington to the effect that pressure had been brought to bear upon him for some reason, and he asserted that no man living could bring pressure to bear upon him. "In making that statement," shouted Mr. Parkinson, "Mr. Harrington has uttered a barefaced lie!"

"When men get in the habit of telling lies," replied Mr. Harrington, "it is just as easy to tell a big lie as a small one, and I don't know of any man in Orange who can lie better than Alderman Parkinson."

Mr. Romine said that if the members of the Sewerage Committee had done their duty, and he believed that they had, the bills were right and fair and he should vote for their payment.

Mr. Harrington spoke in defence of the bill of the Clerk. It was not alone for acting as clerk, but for other services during the past three years.

Mr. Parkinson said that the charter provided that the Clerk should act as secretary of all committees. He could not see the use, he said, of having three or four different counsels.

Mr. Seymour said that the Water and Sewerage Committees were now one, and the Clerk was not expected by the charter to be secretary of them. He charged that Mr. Parkinson lived in a doubtful ward and was trying to make political capital.

The rules were then suspended by a vote of 12 to 2, Messrs. Parkinson and Hunter voting no, and the bill was ordered paid by the same vote.

The tax payers of this town have a particular interest in the Orange Common Council at this time, and an interest that will increase with the future development of the sewer construction. It is to that august body that this town is going to pay over a considerable amount of money for a share in the outlet sewer.

Mr. Brennan's, Mr. Harrington's and Mr. Haley's "little bills" for "services" are among the several contingencies which the terms of contract could not be made to enviorn. The present condition of things is not one calculated to inspire taxpayers with confidence. The *Chronicle* is right; it is indeed "time to reform" and it is to be hoped that the "simple" remedy will at once be vigorously applied.

The Sprng Outlook.

TOWNSHIP OFFICERS WHOSE TERMS EXPIRE AND THEIR PROBABLE SUCCESSORS

Two months hence the local spring election will take place. Aspirants for political honors will soon begin to intimate their desire to serve the public. Local politics will soon be the leading topic of conversation among the men about town. Developements in the political situation will increase in interest from day to day. The elimination of the offices of Collector and Assessor from the contest this year will tend to deprive it of some of the interest that would otherwise be felt.

The term of four members of the Township Committee expires namely: Robert S. Budd, Member at Large; Charles L. Seibert of the First Ward; Lewis A. Cockefair of the Second Ward; and Chas. H. Halfpenny of the Third Ward. The other officers whose terms expire are: Edward S. Farrand, Township Clark; C. L. Voorhees, Overseer of the Poor; Constable John V. Smith; Surveyors of Highways, N. H. Dodd, Benjamin Haskell; Commissioners of Appeal, James C. Beach, William Colfax and N. H. Dodd.

Will the Democrates renominate Mr. Budd for Committeeman at Large, and will Mr. Budd accept a renomination are two questions that politicians are anxious to have definitely answered. There is no doubt but what the Democrats will be only too glad to secure Mr. Budd's consent to head their ticket again this year. Personally, Mr. Budd will only be too glad to get out of politics. It may be that for his party's sake and to gratify the wishes of a very large number of friends, irrespective of politics, Mr. Budd may again be induced to stand for office. The question of Mr. Budd's candidacy is a serious one to the Republicans. It may be a difficult matter to get a strong man to run against Mr. Budd.

In the First Ward it is conceded that whoever gets the Republican nomination will be elected. Mr. Charles L. Seibert, has rendered faithful service to the public now for three consecutive years, as Committeeman and Township Treasurer. Personally, Mr. Seibert is anxious to rest on his laurels, but a strong effort is being put forth to induce him to again be a candidate.

In the Second Ward there is promise of lively times. Mr. Lewis Cockefair has concluded that he has devoted enough of his time in his day to the public service, and does not feel called upon to place himself at the disposal of his friends. In equity Brookdale is probably entitled to the representative in the Committee this term. Mr. Brokaw or Mr. George Fisher, would perhaps make very good representatives. Politics are extremely uncertain in the Second Ward, and more than one surprise has come from that direction. If the Republicans ignore Brookdale an alliance of Democrats and Independents may be looked for.

In the Third Ward the two political parties are pretty evenly balanced. Mr. Charles H. Halfpenny will not be a candidate for renomination. It seems to be the general opinion that Mr. M. A. Dailey will be the Republican nominee. The Democrats concede that they prefer to fight against some other man than Mr. Dailey. Mr. Dailey is an ex-committeeman and experienced in township affairs.

Mr. Voorhees will probably have opposition for the office of Poor Master. He has a strong backing and is personally well liked and administers his office conscientiously.

There will be a lively scramble for the office of constable. John V. Smith, the present incumbent, has held the office several years. He takes no active part in politics and has many friends in both parties. Louis Collins of the Second Ward and Richard Baylis of the First Ward are candidates for the office.

The offices to be filled by appointment: Township Counsel to succeed Harry E. Richards. Mr. Richards will not accept a reappointment. Health Board Inspector to succeed W. B. Corby. To secure the efficient services of Mr. Corby for another year, the town will probably have to pay as much money as Montclair pays for the same services. A Chief Engineer of the Fire Department to succeed T. Howell Johnson. Several firemen, it is said, aspire in a quiet way to the office held by Mr. Johnson. Mr. Johnson gives general satisfaction to the majority of the firemen and to the committee and no change is anticipated, nevertheless concealed wires may be undergoing a vigorous pulling. Six members of the police force are to be appointed and unless an investigation reveals the fact that some of the present appointees have been guilty of slight indescretion, the present force will very likely all be reappointed.

Second Ward Politics.

Politics in the Second Ward are beginning to boom. This Ward expects some of the Township offices to come up their way. For Committeeman-at-large the Second Ward presents the well known grocer, William Colfax of Broad Street. Mr. Colfax needs no introduction to the voters of Bloomfield. He would make an excellent Chairman of the Township Committee and no doubt would accept the nomination.

For Town Committee in place of Lewis Cockefair, who refused a renomination under any circumstances, the residents of Brookdale will put in nomination Wilbur M. Brokaw, as the upper end of the ward is entitled to a member of the committee this year. No doubt Mr. Brokaw will receive the nomination.

For Township Clerk the Second Ward has a candidate in Mr. William A. Baldwin. Mr. Baldwin is too well known for further remarks. Mr. Baldwin has been a member of the Township Committee.

For Overseer of the Poor the Brookdale voters will present the name of Wm. Stimus. Mr. Stimus lives near the Poorhouse and could supply the needs of the town poor.

The Second Ward is entitled to a constable this year and will present the name of Peter Fornoff, Jr. John V. Smith whose term expires has recently been appointed Court Constable by Sheriff Haussling and is a candidate for re-election for constable. The Second Ward Club will push the candidacy of Peter Fornoff, Jr.

Some changes in the election board of the Second Ward would be beneficial and desirable, as a large number of Republican voters were left off the voting list at the last election.

SECOND WARDER.

Did the Parrot Cry 'Stop Thief?'

Montclair boasts a sagacious dog that pulls its master out of bed if perchance it discovers that the family have retired without closing windows and taking other precautions against burglars. The sagacity of Montclair's wonderful canine was the subject of an article in the Newark Sunday Call.

Not to be outdone by Montclair, Glen Ridge comes forward with a parrot yarn that equals the former dog tale. William Hill, the Montgomery Street butcher, resides on Lincoln Avenue, Glen Ridge. A pretty pall parrot is a much prized pet in the Hill family. The parrot performed the duties of a burglar alarm on Sunday night of last week, arousing Mr. Hill in time to scare off sneak theives who had entered the house and who but for polly's watchfulness and promptness in giving an alarm would have probably ransacked the house. Polly gets extra crackers now.

Knights of Pythias Election.

Eureka Lodge No. 46 Knights of Pythias elected officers on Tuesday night. Post Chancellor, Joseph Reinheimer; Chancellor Commander, Abram Day; Vice Chancellor, Moses McKay; Prelate, William Hill; Master-at-arms, Charles T. Van Court; K. of R. and S., Frank L. Baker; M. of E., George W. Way; Representative to Grand Lodge, James Crisp, Jr.; Alternate, Fred Hall; Trustee, Philip Bickler.

Watsessing and East Orange.

Hiram L. Van Gelson has given up the grocery business in Watsessing, and the store is closed.

The week of prayer will be observed in the Watsessing M. E. Church next week.

If the persons who broke the pulley block at the top of the Watsessing flag pole will be so good as to climb the pole and put on a new block so that the flag can be raised on holidays, the community will be obliged to them.

Two sisters and two nieces of the late George Hall, who live in England, inherit the property on Willow street.

Ticket agent Mullinix of the Watsessing station played detective on Tuesday and succeeded in securing a pocket-book lost by well known Watsessing young lady. The young lady and a companion bought tickets for Succasunna on the Closter Branch and got on the 1.48 P. M. last bound train. She left her pocket book lying on a seat in the station. Two ladies, one of them a stranger, were in the station waiting for a train to Montclair. One of the ladies picked up the pocket book with the intention of giving it to the agent. The strange lady stepped up and claimed it. It was given to her. The lady who first discovered it doubted the honesty of the stranger and told the agent the circumstance. When the 2.02 train arrived from Newark among the first to jump off was the young lady who bought tickets for Succasunna. "Oh, Mr. Mullinix, have you seen my pocket book?" she exclaimed. The agent told her that a woman who had just got on the train had it. The agent got aboard the train and pointed out the woman to conductor Stevens. The agent went right up to the woman and demanded the pocket book. She surrendered it with an apology for having made a mistake. The pocket book contained seven dollars and a gold ring.

Happy Hoosiers.

Wm Timmots, Postmaser of Idaville, Ind. writes: "Electric Bitters has done more for me than all other medicines combined, for that bad feeling arising from Kidney and Liver trouble." John Leslie, farmer and stockman, of the same place, says: "Find Electric Bitters to be the best Kidney and Liver medicine, made me feel like a new man." J. W. Gardner, hardware merchant, same town, says: Electric Bitters is just the thing for a man who is all run down and don't care whether he lives or dies; he found new strength, good appetite and felt like he had a new lease on life. Only 50c a bottle, at Geo. M. Wood's Drug Store.

"Why, I cannot get enough to eat," says one lady who formerly had no appetite, but took Hood's Sarsaparilla.

The Ball of the Jolly Five.

A correspondent of THE CITIZEN writes to say that in an item of THE CITIZEN of last week, which stated that the police courageously quelled the riot which concluded the ball of the Jolly Five on Christmas morning, was a false statement. Our correspondent makes a series of very grave charges against the conduct of the police on that occasion. We decline to publish the letter, because we do not believe the charges to be true. The proper place to take such things is to the Police Committee. If that body refuses to act on the presentation of authenticated evidence, then recourse to the newspapers perhaps is proper.

It is too bad that the people will not let the police alone, and not persist in associating them with ball room rackets and saloon escapades.

Return of Lecturer, Henry H. Ragan.

CHRIST CHURCH GUILD HOUSE.

On Saturday evening, January 9th, our readers will be given an opportunity to hear Mr. H. H. Ragan's new illustrated lecture "The Hudson, Lake George and the Adirondacks." It will be profusely illustrated by over eighty scenes. That it will be a rich treat is an assured fact, as Mr. Ragan's seventeen previous lectures proved his ability and popularity beyond question, and no doubt this one will also be up to his usual standard of excellence both in its literary and artistic features. Certainly the romances of the Hudson, Sleepy Hollow and the Catskills which Irving and Cooper have immortalized ought to give us a suggestion of its treatment, and to these we shall have added many beautiful scenes of the famous Lake George and be taken for awhile into the vastness and placid calm of the far famed Adirondacks. As to opening sale see announcement elsewhere.

Church Notes

Glen Ridge Congregational Church, cor. of Ridgewood avenue and Clark street. Rev. Frank J. Goodwin, Pastor. Regular services at 10.30 A. M., and 7.45 P. M.; Sunday-school at 3 o'clock; Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, at 7.15 P. M.

Christ Episcopal Church.—Morning Prayer and Litany, at 10 A. M.; Holy Communion and Sermon, at 10.30; Evening Prayer and Sermon at 7.30. Rev. E. A. White, formerly of St. John's Church, Lafayette, Indiana, will officiate.

Nothing is more appropriate as a gift than of cut glass. A remarkable display of Dorflinger's American cut glass may be seen at 36 Murray street, New York.

Dancing Classes

A dancing class will be formed in Miss Northall's Schoolroom at Glen Ridge, January eighth, at half-past three. Those wishing to join classes, afternoon or evening, will confer with Miss Northall at her residence on Appleton Place, or at the Sbhool after January third, between nine and one.

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